



Putnam County Land Trust News

Spring - Summer 2004

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Putnam County Land Trust

Land Trust Acquires Mendel's Pond

By Laurie Wallace

Mendel's Pond, a local landmark in Patterson and an important waterfowl habitat, is part of a 44 acre acquisition worked out with Shelia and Bill Hamilton by the Putnam County Land Trust, FrOGS and the Nature Conservancy. Coordinated by Hunter Pollock of PCLT and Laura Welles of TNC, preservation of this important wildlife area was accomplished with funds from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NACWA) grant program.

PCLT joined with FrOGS, the Nature Conservancy, and eleven other partners, including the Town of Patterson, and applied for a North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant that targeted the preservation of 925 acres of wetlands with some adjacent uplands in the "Heart of the Great Swamp". Most of the 925 acres are located in the widest portion of the Swamp, stretching roughly from the Patterson Environmental Park south to Rte 22. The Mendel Pond area was included as part of the proposal because it is part of the Muddy Brook section of the Swamp and there was an existing upland connection to the Swamp over the ridge of Cornwall Hill which includes the already preserved parcels at the Sterling Farm Preserve and lands donated to PCLT by Mildred Luschinsky.

The acquisition of the Pond completes a key 100-acre upland forest corridor that bridges Cornwall Hill. This "bridge" area is important to larger wildlife like bobcat and otter that move from one area to another within their territory. In addition many wetland species need bordering upland areas to compliment their breeding areas or to find food. Some "upland" species like the rare blue-spotted salamander live in the forest, but move to the wetlands in the spring to breed. Others, like the wood duck nest in hollow trees in the Swamp but feast on acorns from the oaks in the bordering uplands.

A sanctuary for migratory waterfowl.

Spring migration brings Ring-necked Ducks, Black Ducks and Green-winged Teal. During migration they rest and feed on the pond then move onto their breeding grounds in Canada and the Artic. In the Fall they are often seen on the return journey. The declining populations of Black Ducks is of growing concern, so stopover points on their migration routes are important.

The most unusual site in the spring is the amazing view of "shorebirds" hopping from lilly pad to lilly pad on the pond in search of insects for their continuing journey and both Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers can be observed feeding this way. Both have traveled from Central or South America to reach here and the Solitary Sandpiper has a long way to go to reach their Artic summer breeding grounds.

In 2000, FrOGS, with the PCLT, the Nature Conservancy and other partners, including the State of New York, Putnam County and the Town of Patterson joined to apply for the grant from NACWA. Protecting wetlands, open water areas and their adjacent uplands are important "stop-over" points for these migrants and is a major objective of the NACWA Grant Program.

The Federal Program awarded the Partners a total of \$940,000 to acquire lands through purchase or conservation easement. The partners had to pledge more than twice that amount in order to obtain the grant. PCLT contributed funds that were donated to the Land Trust from the Appleby Foundation that were given for acquisition of lands in the Great Swamp. Since the receipt of the Award in late 2001, the Partners have acquired or received conservation easements on three other parcels of land within the Swamp.



Putnam County Land Trust
PO Box 36
Brewster, NY 10509

Yes! I'd Like to Join the Putnam County Land Trust

(Clip and Mail with check payable to: Putnam County Land Trust, PO Box 36, Brewster, NY 10509)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone (day): (____) _____ Telephone (eve): (____) _____
Email Address: _____

Membership Levels: (please check one)

Individual: \$15 _____ Family: \$25 _____ Associate: \$100 _____
Benefactor: \$250 _____ Sponsor: \$500 _____ Blue Heron Club: \$1000 _____

Areas of Interest: (Fundraising, Preserve Stewardship, Newsletter, Land Acquisition, Etc.)

As an individual or family member you will receive a year's subscription to our newsletter and calendar of events, as well as occasional discounts to Special Events. Higher levels have additional benefits.

Membership fees are tax deductible up to the limit allowed by law

See "Mendel's Pond" on Page 3

Tarrywile Park - A Special Place in our Backyard

By Lucinda Quinn

Tarrywile Park is located in Danbury CT not too far from the Danbury airport, only a few miles over the Connecticut border from Brewster. It is a wonderful park, with well marked trails which are graded by color for hiking ease and degree of difficulty. The yellow trail is the most difficult and leads to the top of Mootry Peak Lookout (900 ft. above sea level) where one of the Danbury airport beacons is located. Mootry Peak looks out over Mill Plain to the west towards Brewster, and Swampfield to the south towards Ridgefield.



The park offers nature programs year round, from cross country skiing and snow shoeing in the winter, to fishing, orienteering, letterboxing, and bird watching in the warmer months. For the more 'domesticated participant', there are formal historical gardens around the mansion. And the mansion itself is open for tours and available for catered events.

One aspect I particularly enjoy at this park, is not only the beautiful views, but the variety of terrain. There are several lakes and streams to wander along, there are a few large hayfields dotted with blue bird houses, and steep rocky ledges covered in

moutain laurel and oak. So a visitor to this park has several choices: sit at a picnic table which overlooks the hayfield and read a book, all the while keeping one eye out for blue birds; hike around one of the lakes looking for red winged blackbirds; or get really energetic in those hiking boots and power up a mountain side for the best view Danbury has to offer!

There is so much to mention about Tarrywile I am including below a portion of the website: <http://www.danbury.org/tarry/>

Tarrywile Park is a 654-acre historic

building and land preserve, purchased by the City of Danbury in 1985. Tarrywile is managed for the City of Danbury by the Tarrywile Park Authority (TPA) to provide community activities, passive recreation, environmental education, wildlife management, watershed protection, scenic views, agriculture, and forestry, while maintaining a sustained balance of historic preservation.

As a passive recreation park, Tarrywile has more than seven miles of hiking trails cleared to date, with more in the planning stages. Two picnic areas have been established, one in the orchard and one off the lower Mansion parking lot. The TPA

is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan for the future development of the farm area. Annual activities in the park include the Boy Scout Klondike & Jamboree, National Trails Day, Winter Trails Snowshoe Romp, cross country running meets for area high school students, numerous outdoor events such as cross country skiing clinics, backpacking and camping demos, monthly guided hikes, orienteering, and environmental education programs. The Children's Garden, located on the mansion grounds, was opened in the fall of 2000. The area, which is based on Maurice Sendak's children's book, Where the Wild Things Are, serves as an area for children's story-hour and environmental activities for educational and school groups.

Tarrywile Mansion functions as a community center for the City of Danbury. The 23 room shingle style Victorian is available for a variety of large or small family, cultural, school, service club, social, or business functions. Tarrywile Park can be reached by emailing Tarrywile.mansion@snet.net



Photos graciously provided by the Tarrywile Staff

Carpentry is for the birds! Bluebirds that is....

By Cathy Ermann

Saturday, March 20th, the first day of Spring 2004, dawned a beautiful day. It was, in fact, warm enough to wear shorts (at least for me!). Sure, it was only a fleeting tease, as those kinds of days are during early spring, but it was a sure reminder that it was time to get ready for those wonderful creatures that will be looking for a home this year - our native birds!



And so, with hammer in hand, I was joined by fellow birdhouse builders at the Brewster Public Library for two birdhouse-building sessions. Parents and children alike nailed together bluebird houses while we discussed the possible future inhabitants of their labor from bluebirds to wrens.

More than 24 birdhouses were constructed and not one finger was mistakenly squashed by a hammer. A good time was had by all. Hopefully the "For Rent" sign will not be on these houses for long!

PCLT is proud to again receive corporate sponsorship support from *The Law Firm of William Sayegh*. This is the second year in a row the firm has chosen to donate to the land trust. Receiving the check from William Sayegh is Land Trust President, Judith Terlizzi. In the photo looking on is Donald Smith, Putnam County Sheriff.

The Land Trust also received support from SLS Health.

Our Corporate Patrons were: Arborscape, The Chuckie Goodnight Foundation and Levy, Santoro and Santoro

Dinner Table Sponsors were: Brewster Honda, Brewster Ice Arena, Bruen Deldin Didio Associates*, Envirostar, Insite Engineering* and Reservoir Realty

* Firms who donated last year as well.

Summer Internships

High school students looking for a community service work this summer might want to consider serving a number of hours with the land trust. Work will be done in small groups on various preserves to control invasive plants. We urge students to think about signing up for anywhere from 5 to 25 hours. Please visit our website or call (845) 228-4520 for more information or to sign up.

PCLT Annual Meeting

Each year the land trust is required to hold an annual meeting open to our general membership and the public. The session includes a review of the past year as well as a look forward. This year the annual meeting will be held on Sunday,

June 13th. As of press time, the time and place have not yet been set. Please check our website or call 228-4520 for details.

Have you visited the PCLT website?

It's filled with great information about our programs and preserves.

www.pclt.net



Upcoming PCLT Events

Hikes!

Saturday, May 22nd - 11am

Hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail with Land Trust member and AT hiker Mark Anderson. Meet at the Appalachian Trail station on Route 22 just north of Pawling. Park in the turnoff area just past Native Landscaping on the left and walk south a short way to train stop. Mark chose this hike because of the variety of habitats we will see--wet swampy areas with boardwalking, wooded hillside, open fields and scenic vistas to Massachusetts at the peak. This walk on Corbin Hill will last about 2 and 1/2 hours. For more information call Mark Anderson at 279 8214.

Sunday, June 13th - Mountain Laurel Hike- 1:30 pm

Last year we were too early so maybe this year we will get it just right. Judy Terlizzi will take you on a hike to view the blooming mountain laurel. Judy will visit various sites to see where the best blooms are, choosing the best one for our walk. We will learn about plant communities and habitats as we go on our way. Hike will last about 2 hours. Please leave your name and phone number at 228 4520 so Judy may get back to you with the meeting place.

Other Events

Saturday, June 12th - 2 to 4 pm - Ages 5-12

The Chuckie Goodnight Foundation is offering an environmental workshop to teach Earth stewardship through story telling, expression through art and guided journey. Join Chuckie for a fun afternoon learning ways that you can help create a healthy environment for our Earth. Fee is \$5.00. For more information call Cherie Ingraham at 845 279 5956 or visit the website at www.chuckiegoodnight.com

The Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem

Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour - dusk. The evening begins with a wolf-related reading in the classroom while participants indulge in a "make-your-own sundae" bar. Then, enjoy a sunset hike to howl with the wolves. Time - 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Suggested donation \$12 for children under 10 and \$15 for everyone over 10

Dates:

Friday, June 25 - families
Saturday, July 17 - adults and kids over 10
Friday, July 30 - families
Friday, August 6 - adults and kids over 10
Saturday, August 14 - families

For more information visit:
<http://www.nywolf.org/wolfhowl.html>

Upcoming workshops at the Wolf Conservation Center include:

June 19 - Photography
July 17 - Getting to Know Wolves.
July 24 - The Truth About Predators.
Visit: <http://www.nywolf.org/events.html> for more information



Second Annual Hands-on Ecology Field Trip with Peter Warney

By Cathy Ermann



The Clough Preserve was humming with Boy Scouts and others our Second Annual Ecology Field Walk with Peter Warney began. This year, we went to the Clough Preserve. For those of you not familiar with the preserve, it is located on Farm to Market Road in Brewster and is owned by the Town of Patterson. Starting off the hike, Peter showed us some of his favorite friends that he had bought with him - a painted turtle, salamander eggs and a large bullfrog to name a few. Then we were off down the trail to see if we

could find any interesting creatures ourselves. The first stop was a small stream in which the kids turned over rocks and look for crayfish. Peter, apply dressed in chest-high waders, then took off into the swamp and found salamanders and salamander eggs.

We kept on hiking and wound up at Ice Pond. Unfortunately, by the time the hike had begun, the originally sunny, warm day had turned cold and rainy, causing our wild friends to seek shelter. However, had the day stayed warm, Peter told us we would see many things, including lots of turtles sunning themselves on rocks in the swamp. So, on a sunny day, take a slow, rambling hike at the Clough Preserve (or one of the PCLT preserves) and see what you can find!

"Mendel's Pond" (continued from Page 1)

Beyond the birds, PCLT members have just begun to observe and census the wildlife found in this new preserve. Tom Morgan earlier noted that there was much more checking and searching among the ferns alone to identify them all. "There is so much here" exclaimed Dodd Charoudi when he first saw the new property a few months ago.

"Our family has received so much pleasure from this property", said Bill Hamilton. "We were glad we could help the three organizations achieve their goal to preserve it for future generations."

"We gave Turtle Pond back to the land where it belongs, we were only borrowing it" says Shelia Hamilton. With the transfer to the Land Trust, the name of the Pond will be changed back to its original name, Turtle Pond.

Annual Land Trust Canoe Trip was a Great Success

By Hunter Pollock

The night had been cool and clear with a promised sunny morning to follow - my favorite spring weather pattern. As we have come to expect, the Green Chimney's lifeguards were cheerful and knowledgeable in their instruction of proper life preserver fastening, paddling technique, and canoe safety. The sun began to warm the still damp sand on the beach flanking the East Branch of the Croton River as we loaded up the 10 odd canoes and shoved off. This was going to be a special morning for Brewster Pack 1. Most of the boys and their parents had never experienced the Great Swamp in Spring!



After a little paddle practice near the beach, the kids and their parents were soon paddling up river with little difficulty. On the first leg of the trip, the river channel is well defined and, looking down through the clear running water, the shells of fresh water mussels flashed back in the early morning light, looking like sunken treasure on the sandy bottom. Rounding the first bend, the young paddlers had to maneuver through a tight spot amongst an old stately tree that had fallen across the channel. Uprooted trees are common sight in the swamp,

as many of the trees have roots that grow very shallowly, probably to aid in oxygen absorption. The bases of some of the trees grow into substantial buttresses, which appear to lend stability to their otherwise weak structures that are forced to cling to the soft, silty soils. At this point, the river runs alongside an upland area, and one can't help but notice the dramatic difference between the vast mudflats of riverine habitat and the more typically experienced upland forest.

The green shoots and yet unfurled leaves of thousands of Lizard Tails were starting to thrust up through the vast wetland. Soon the rich, alkaline soils would be completely hidden under a vast mat of lush herbaceous growth.

Farther on, we startled several Great Blue Herons along the edge of the waterway. Standing up to four feet tall, they make an impressive sight as they take off and flap lazily upriver. Suddenly a sharp, unbroken kee-r-r alerts us to a pair of Red-Tailed Hawks soaring out of the upper forested slope above us. They circle us a few times on stiff, outstretched wings as if wondering what all the commotion is about before heading out of sight beyond the ridge. Ahead, the kids have spotted a log with a row of shiny, black painted turtles taking advantage of the warming sun.

This is a small part of a typical day on the swamp; rarely does this 20 mile long ecological treasure disappoint. Our turn around point seemed to come way too quick (as it always does) and we paddled slowly back to the beach, enjoying the peace and beauty of this backyard wilderness we all share. Ahead, a cluster of paddlers, already in their life preservers and paddles in hand, wait on the beach for their adventure to unfold.

35th Annual Land Trust Dinner

This year, the annual dinner took in over \$20,000. The success of the dinner depends on many pieces coming together including the donation of time given by the members of the dinner committee, the generosity of our corporate partners listed elsewhere and the support of our local community businesses. The following are the local businesses and professionals whose generosity we deeply acknowledge and appreciate. One way our Land Trust members can help is to personally thank these businesses and to support them by doing business with them.

Putnam Family Support and Advocacy – Carmel
 Carmel Printing - Brewster
 Magnolia's – Carmel
 Travel Ark - Carmel
 Carmel Optical - Carmel
 Marshall's – A Shoe Shop - Carmel
 Fluchere Appraisal Service - Carmel
 Terry Bergendorff Collins - Brewster
 Pro Plumbing & Heating – New Fairfield. Ct
 John Neubauer, Audio Visual Products - Patterson
 Friends of the Great Swamp
 Brewster Seafood - Brewster
 Gregory Bagen, Attorney - Brewster
 Ed Scrivani - Patterson
 Edward Schaffer, Attorney - Carmel
 Gym Magic Gymnastics – Brewster
 The Bank of New York – Brewster
 Dill's Best Building Centers, Carmel, Brewster, Mahopac, Pawling
 Daniels Agency – Pawling
 The Feed Barn – Brewster
 Kokosing Farm – Patterson
 Rothacher and Banfield Builders – Patterson
 Center for Individual Therapy – Lincolndale
 Ella's Natural Foods – Brewster
 Daniel Jewelers - Brewster
 Victor Grossman, Attorney - Carmel
 Brewster Flower Garden – Brewster
 Posner, Posner and Associates – Brewster
 Tela Cook Real Estate – Patterson
 Earthlore at Amber Waves of Grain – Carmel
 Ledley Food Service – Brewster
 Feehan Insurance Agency – Brewster
 Cascade Farm – Patterson
 Dr. Foster Malmed, chiropractor – Brewster
 Putnam County Savings Bank – Brewster
 Margaret Kogan – Brewster
 Studio J – Brewster
 The Mt. Nimham Campaign – Kent
 The Bowl Company – Patterson
 The Wolf Conservation Center – South Salem
 Benvenuti's Restaurant – Brewster
 Empire Theatre – Brewster
 Patterson Wines & Spirits – Patterson
 Pawling Agway – Pawling
 Hannaford's – Pawling
 Aversano's Restaurant – Brewster
 Berkshire Nursery – Patterson
 Petersen's Greenhouse – Patterson

Jen & Jerri's Deli – Carmel
 Touch of Class Dry Cleaner – Carmel
 Norm's – Brewster
 Mac Kenzie's Tattoo Parlor - Carmel
 Pie Sano Pizza & Restaurant – Carmel
 Vikki Raabin, piano instruction – Fishkill
 Thunder Ridge Ski Area – Patterson
 Cortlandt Music – Croton on Hudson
 Jamie Grossman, artist – Brewster
 Claire's Garden Center – Patterson
 Patterson Wood Bench – Patterson
 Jean Anthony, artist – Brewster
 Clock Tower Frame Shop – Brewster
 Gold's Gym – Carmel
 The Dry Cleaner- Patterson
 Carmel Diner – Carmel
 River Run Farm – Brewster
 Salon 2000 – Brewster
 Brewster Nails- Brewster
 Community Pharmacy – Brewster
 Red Rooster Drive-In – Brewster
 Alben Cleaners – Brewster
 Sinapi's Pizzeria and Restaurant – Brewster
 On Line Hair Design – Brewster
 La Famiglia Restaurant – Carmel
 Curves for Women – Brewster
 Fanny Doolittle – Patterson
 Anne Koplik – Brewster
 Brewster Garden Center & Florist – Brewster
 Rocco's Pizza – Patterson
 Carmel Flower Shop – Carmel
 Silver Lake – Carmel
 The Cohen Putnam Agency - Carmel
 Allwood Heritage Furniture – Patterson
 Casafina – Brewster
 Brook Farm Veterinary Center – Patterson
 Starbuck's Coffee – Carmel
 Sunrise Herbal Remedies – Redding Ridge, Ct
 Buy – Rite Liquors – Brewster
 Centennial Golf Club – Carmel
 Middlebranch Farm – Brewster
 Brewster Consignment – Brewster
 Kobacker's Market – Brewster
 Ice Pond Spinner – Patterson
 Paradise Tan – Goldens Bridge
 Carmel Fitness & Racquet Club – Carmel
 Applebee's – Brewster
 Lifescapes – Carmel

We wish also to thank our supportive public servants who purchased journal ads.

State Senator Vincent Leibell, III
 State Assemblyman Willis Stephens, Jr.
 County Legislator Sam Oliverio, Jr.
 Paul Johnson, Brewster



Bob Lund recognizes Eddie McDowell's work over the years



Edie Keasbey gives a warm thanks to Land Trust President Judy Terlizzi



State Senator Vincent Leibell presents the Land Trust with a proclomation celebrating our 35 years of service to the community

Our 2004 Blue Heron Award Winner: Dr. Thomas Morgan

Dr. Thomas Morgan of Kent, a long time advocate for the environment, passed away this spring at his daughter's home in Utica, NY, after a battle with Parkinson's disease. Tom was 78 years old and his body was donated to the Albany Medical School so that his love of the natural sciences could continue even in his death.



Dr. Morgan's wife Jane accepts the Blue Heron Award in his honor



Ivan Cohen returns to run our successful live auction!

Where would we be without our volunteers?



Musical guest Michelle LeBlanc

Photos by Peter Krupenye